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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/759,179	01/20/2004	Chihiro Uematsu	1021.43414X00	7828

20457 7590 12/29/2005

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EXAMINER	
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ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
1637	

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/759,179	UEMATSU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Stephanie K. Mummert	1637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☒ Claim(s) 1-13 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/20/04
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-9, drawn to a method for expressed gene analysis, classified in class 435, subclass 9.

II. Claims 10-13, drawn to a kit comprising probe(s), classified in class 536, subclass 24.3.

Inventions I and II are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the probe that comprises the kit of Group II can be used in cDNA library screening, in mutagenesis, or as a probe for microarray analysis. A search of the claimed invention of Group II would require a search inclusive of the many potential uses of the nucleic acid probe (as previously noted), in addition to the suggested use as part of the method of Group I. A search of the method for expressed gene analysis is not coextensive with a search of a nucleic acid probe and would therefore impose a search burden on the examiner. The inyentions of Group I and II also have a separate status in the art as shown by their different classifications.

During a telephone conversation with William Solomon on November 21, 2005 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group 1, claims 1-9. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action.

Claims 11-13 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of In re Ochiai, In re Brouwer and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Claims 1-9 are pending and will be examined.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 4 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. As currently written, claim 4 recites the exact same claim language as claim 3 and therefore does not further limit the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With regard to claim 1, the portion of the claim that recites "a primer for introduction comprising a first base sequence closer to the 5' end than a third base sequence comprising a sequence specifically hybridizing to a target gene and comprising a second base sequence comprising a second base sequence closer to the 5' end than the first base sequence" is vague and indefinite. First, the term "primer for introduction" is confusing because it is unclear where it is binding within the gene and what purpose it serves. Next, the description of the first base sequence as closer to the 5' end than a third base sequence is confusing because it is unclear if the base sequence refers to a single nucleotide or if the term refers to a stretch of nucleotide

sequence comprising a portion of the "primer for introduction." Furthermore, the identity of each of the portions of the primer are not clear with the current terminology used.

With regard to claim 2, the portion of the claim that recites "is cDNA comprising the first base sequence and the second base sequence introduced therein" is vague and indefinite for multiple reasons. First, the terms "first base sequence" and "second base sequence" are vague and indefinite for the reasons stated for claim 1 recited above. Second, the term "introduced therein" is vague and indefinite because it is unclear when the second base sequence was introduced.

With regard to claim 3, the portion of the claim that recites "the primer for introduction" is vague and indefinite due to the uncertain meaning of the term.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ovyn et al. (6,1101,681; August 2000) in view of Livak et al. (US Patent 5,538,848; July 1996) and further in view of Eun et al. (2000, Journal of Virological Methods, vol. 87, p. 151-160). Ovyn teaches a method of amplification that incorporates the NASBA or nucleic acid sequence based

amplification system for the detection of variants of Mycoplasma pneumonia (col. 1, lines 19 to col. 3, line 15).

With regard to claim 1, Ovyn teaches a method for expressed gene analysis, which comprises the steps of: A) subjecting a gene to be analyzed to nucleic acid amplification using 1) a forward primer specifically hybridizing to the gene to be analyzed (col. 4, lines 48-62, where the upstream and downstream primers are designed to include sequence complementary to the target sequence), 2) a primer for introduction comprising a first base sequence closer to the 5' end than a third base sequence comprising a sequence specifically hybridizing to a target gene and comprising a second base sequence closer to the 5' end than the first base sequence (col. 4, lines 48-62, where the primer may include a promoter sequence), 3) a probe comprising a base sequence identical or complementary to the first base sequence and labeled at one end with a fluorophore (col. 6, lines 30-37, where the probe may be labeled with a detectable moiety including radioactive, fluorescent, chemiluminescent or electrochemical), 4) reverse transcriptase (col. 2, lines 65-66; see also Figure 1, where the reverse transcriptase is AMV-RT), 5) RNA polymerase (col. 2, lines 65-66, where the RNA polymerase is T7 RNA polymerase, see also Figure 1), and 6) ribonuclease H and/or exonuclease (col. 2, lines 65-66, see Figure 1); and C) detecting fluorescence emitted by the released fluorophore, thereby assaying the amount of the product of the nucleic acid amplification (col. 9, lines 45-55, where detection probes were hybridized to horseradish peroxidase and the amount of HRP conjugated oligonucleotides was measured to detect target sequence; however as noted at col. 6, lines 30-37, the probe may also be labeled by fluorescent moieties),

wherein the gene to be analyzed is prepared by introducing the first base sequence and the second base sequence comprising a promoter sequence of RNA polymerase, which are non-specific to the base sequence of the target gene, into the target gene so that the second base sequence is bound to a position closer to the 5' end than the first base sequence (see Figure 1 and description recited above).

With regard to claim 2, Ovyn teaches an embodiment of claim 1, wherein the gene to be analyzed is cDNA comprising the first base sequence and the second base sequence introduced therein by subjecting mRNA of the target gene to reverse transcription using a primer for introduction which comprises the first base sequence as described for claim 1 above, in step A) 2) (col. 5, lines 46-64, where primer P1 hybridizes to the RNA to prime and initiate 1st strand synthesis and where after second strand synthesis, the complete cDNA includes the T7 promoter site from the P1 primer).

With regard to claims 3 and 4, Ovyn teaches an embodiment of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid amplification is conducted by sequentially repeating the following steps 1) to 3):
1) transcription of the gene to analyzed into RNA with the aid of RNA polymerase (col. 5, lines 46-67, see also Figure 1);
2) reverse transcription of the RNA using the forward primer and the reverse transcriptase or ribonuclease H to synthesize single-stranded cDNA (see Figure 1); and
3) synthesis of the gene to be analyzed from the single-stranded cDNA using the primer for introduction and DNA polymerase (col. 5, lines 46-67 and Figure 1).

With regard to claim 5, Ovyn teaches an embodiment of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid amplification is conducted at a substantially single temperature (col. 10, lines 15-25, where isothermal amplification of the target RNA was performed at 41°C).

With regard to claim 6, Ovyn teaches an embodiment of claim 5, wherein the single temperature is between 37°C and 55°C (col. 10, lines 15-25, where isothermal amplification of the target RNA was performed at 41°C and wherein 41°C is between 37°C and 55°C).

With regard to claim 7, Ovyn teaches an embodiment of claim 1, wherein the RNA polymerase is T7 RNA polymerase and the second base sequence comprises the T7 promoter sequence (col. 5, lines 46-64, where primer P1 hybridizes to the RNA to prime and initiate 1st strand synthesis and where after second strand synthesis, the complete cDNA includes the T7 promoter site from the P1 primer; see also Figure 1).

Ovyn does not teach that the probe for detection of the amplified nucleic acids is labeled at one end with a fluorphore and at the other end with a quencher or the digestion of the probe bound to the first base sequence by the ribonuclease H or exonuclease at the time of the nucleic acid amplification. Livak teaches the inclusion of a probe labeled at one end with a fluorophore and at the other end with a quencher as part of quantitative Real Time PCR amplification and teaches that the probe bound to the target is digested by an endonuclease (col. 3, lines 49-67).

Neither Ovyn or Livak teach the simultaneous detection of two target genes simultaneously. Eun teaches the simultaneous quantitation of two orchid viruses, cymbidium mosaic potextvirus (CymMV) and odontoglossum ringspot tobamovirus (ORSV) using the TaqMan real-time RT-PCR technique (Abstract, lines 1-3).

With regard to claim 8, Eun teaches an embodiment of claim 1, wherein two or more target genes are simultaneously detected in a single reaction vessel using two or more types of probes (Table 1, where probes directed to CymMV and ORSV are described).

With regard to claim 9, Eun teaches an embodiment of claim 8, wherein the melting temperatures (Tm values) of the two or more types of probes are substantially the same (Table 2, where the probes have Tm values of 69, 68 and 70, for CymMV RdRp, CymMV CP, ORSV RdRp, ORSV CP respectively).

It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the TaqMan probe for the ECL detection step used by Rossi. The probe taught by Livak, is labeled at one end with a fluorophore and a quencher at the other end, where fluorescence is detected when the probe is digested through the 5'-3' exonuclease activity of a DNA polymerase. As taught by Livak, it is preferred that the reporter and quencher molecules are attached at the 5' and 3' terminal ends because the probes "are readily synthesized and ameliorate inefficiencies in hybridization and exonuclease cleavage due to groups which are attached to internal bases or internucleotide linkages" because "a quencher molecule need not be attached to a nucleotide adjacent to a reporter molecule to successfully quench fluorescence produced by the reporter when the probe is in a single stranded state (col. 3, lines 49-67)." Furthermore, as noted by Eun, "the development of the TaqMan 5' nuclease assays represents a significant advance in nucleic acid quantification" (p. 157, col. 2) and further notes that "TaqMan real-time RT-PCR has many advantages over conventional PCR that requires post-amplification processing such as agarose gel electrophoresis. Such steps increase the risk of inaccuracy and contamination... No post amplification steps are required and the calculation of

the initial amount of starting material is performed automatically by the software program. When coupled with a 96-well capacity, this system offers a sensitive, high-throughput and rapid method for plant virus detection (p. 158, col 2)." The benefit of increased sensitivity and high-throughput analysis would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art who would therefore be motivated to incorporate the multiple probes taught by Eun into the NASBA amplification technique taught by Ovyn with a reasonable expectation of success.

5. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leone et al. (1998, Nucleic Acids Research, vol. 26, no. 9, p. 2150-2155) in view of Bass et al. (US PgPub 2001/0039014; November 2001) and further in view of Mackay et al. (2002, Nucleic Acids Research, vol. 30, no. 6, p. 1292-1305). Leone discloses the use of molecular beacon probes in the detection of nucleic acids amplified by the NASBA technique (Abstract).

With regard to claim 1, Leone teaches a method for expressed gene analysis, which comprises the steps of: A) subjecting a gene to be analyzed to nucleic acid amplification using 1) a forward primer specifically hybridizing to the gene to be analyzed (p. 2151, col. 1, 'selection of amplification primers and probe' heading, where PD415 or PD416 are antisense primers and PD417 is a sense primer, which were designed to amplify the coat protein open reading frame), 2) a primer for introduction comprising a first base sequence closer to the 5' end than a third base sequence comprising a sequence specifically hybridizing to a target gene and comprising a second base sequence closer to the 5' end than the first base sequence (p. 2154, Figure 6, legend, where it is noted that the amplicon formed by PD415-PD417 or PD416-PD417 contain a binding site for the T7 RNA polymerase, in addition to complementarity to the target sequence, as

described in more detail in Leone et al. 1997, J. Virol. Methods, 66, 19-27, see Table 1, where the sequences of PD415-PD417 are given and also the '*2.2 Selection of amplification primers and detection probe*' heading, where "the antisense ones consisted of a 3' terminal target specific sequence and a 5' terminal T7 promoter sequence"), 3) a probe comprising a base sequence identical or complementary to the first base sequence and labeled at one end with a fluorophore (p. 2151, col. 1, 'synthesis of the molecular beacons' heading, where a molecular beacon sw75-F1 was designed to bind to nucleotides within the coat protein ORF of PLRV, with DABCYL at the 3' end and fluoroscein at the 5' end), 4) reverse transcriptase (p. 2151, 'NASBA' heading, where the reverse transcriptase was included as part of the enzyme mix, which included 6.4 U AMV-reverse transcriptase), 5) RNA polymerase (p. 2151, 'NASBA' heading, where the RNA polymerase is T7 and 32 U are included in the enzyme mix), and 6) ribonuclease H and/or exonuclease (p. 2151, 'NASBA' heading, where 0.08 U RNase H is included in the enzyme mix); and

C) detecting fluorescence emitted by the released fluorophore, thereby assaying the amount of the product of the nucleic acid amplification (p. 2151, col. 2 'post-NASBA analysis' and 'Real-time monitoring of NASBA reactions and thermal denaturation profiles' heading, see also Figure 2), wherein the gene to be analyzed is prepared by introducing the first base sequence and the second base sequence comprising a promoter sequence of RNA polymerase, which are non-specific to the base sequence of the target gene, into the target gene so that the second base sequence is bound to a position closer to the 5' end than the first base sequence.

With regard to claim 2, Leone teaches an embodiment of claim 1, wherein the gene to be analyzed is cDNA comprising the first base sequence and the second base sequence introduced

therein by subjecting mRNA of the target gene to reverse transcription using a primer for introduction which comprises the first base sequence as described for claim 1 above, in step A) 2) (see description above for Step A) 2), also p. 2150, col. 1, where the process of NASBA is described in more detail, where the reaction is based on the concurrent activity of AMV-RT, RNase H and T7 polymerase).

With regard to claims 3 and 4, Leone teaches an embodiment of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid amplification is conducted by sequentially repeating the following steps 1) to 3):

1) transcription of the gene to analyzed into RNA with the aid of RNA polymerase;

2) reverse transcription of the RNA using the forward primer and the reverse transcriptase or ribonuclease H to synthesize single-stranded cDNA; and

3) synthesis of the gene to be analyzed from the single-stranded cDNA using the primer for introduction and DNA polymerase (p. 2150, col. 1, where the process of NASBA is described in more detail, where the reaction is based on the concurrent activity of AMV-RT, RNase H and T7 polymerase in repetition and where the activity of these enzymes would include each of the preceeding steps recited, including transcription with an RNA polymerase, reverse transcription, and synthesis of the gene using DNA polymerase).

With regard to claim 5, Leone teaches an embodiment of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid amplification is conducted at a substantially single temperature (p. 2151, 'NASBA' heading, where besides an incubation at 65°C prior to introduction of the enzyme mix, the reaction occurred at 41°C).

With regard to claim 6, Leone teaches an embodiment of claim 5, wherein the single temperature is between 37°C and 55°C (p. 2151, 'NASBA' heading, where besides an incubation at 65°C prior to introduction of the enzyme mix, the reaction occurred at 41°C).

With regard to claim 7, Leone teaches an embodiment of claim 1, wherein the RNA polymerase is T7 RNA polymerase and the second base sequence comprises the T7 promoter sequence (p. 2154, Figure 6, legend, where it is noted that the amplicon formed by PD415-PD417 or PD416-PD417 contain a binding site for the T7 RNA polymerase, in addition to complementarity to the target sequence, as described in more detail in Leone et al. 1997, J. Virol. Methods, 66, 19-27, see Table 1, where the sequences of PD415-PD417 are given and also the '*2.2 Selection of amplification primers and detection probe*' heading, where "the antisense ones consisted of a 3' terminal target specific sequence and a 5' terminal T7 promoter sequence").

Leone does not teach that the probe for detection of the amplified nucleic acids is labeled at one end with a fluorphore and at the other end with a quencher or the digestion of the probe bound to the first base sequence by the ribonuclease H or exonuclease at the time of the nucleic acid amplification. However, Bass teaches that a molecular beacon probe molecule with a fluorophore at one end and a quencher at the other for the 'real time' detection of reactions amplified via NASBA is an equivalent alternative to the Taqman hydrolysis probe previously described (p. 36, paragraph 0329, lines 1-12).

6. It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the molecular beacon probe taught by Bass for the TaqMan probe specified in the instant application. The TaqMan probe is labeled at one end with a fluorophore and a quencher at the other end, where fluorescence is detected when the probe is

digested through the exonuclease activity of a processive thermostable polymerase. As taught by Bass, "an alternative to TaqMan is the use of molecular beacons to assess library quality. Molecular beacons are hairpin shaped molecules with an internally quenched fluorophore whose fluorescence is restored when they bind to a target nucleic acid" (p. 36, paragraph 0329, lines 1-12). Bass also notes that "when the probe encounters a target molecule, it forms a hybrid that is longer and more stable than the stem hybrid and its rigidity and length preclude the simultaneous existence of the stem hybrid" (p. 36, paragrah 0329, lines 21-25). Furthermore, as noted by Mackey, because a mismatch between a hairpin probe and its target has a destabilizing effect on hybridization "hairpin oligoprobes have been shown to be more specific than the more common linear oligoprobes, making them ideal candidates for detecting SNPs" (p. 1297, col. 2 'hairpin oligoprobes' heading). One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize the benefit of high specificity of detection of target sequences, who would therefore be motivated to substitute the molecular beacon taught by Bass for the Taqman probe alternative for real-time detection with a reasonable expectation for success.

Related Prior Art

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Yu et al. (WO03/038119; published May 2003) disclose a method of amplification of foot and mouth disease virus (FDMV) using NASBA with detection using chemiluminescence. Rossi et al. (US Patent 5,783,391; July 1998) disclose a method of amplification via cylic amplification using reverse transcriptase and T7 RNA polymerase, however the ribonuclease is RNase A. de Barr et al. (2001, Journal of Clinical Microbiology, p. 1895-1902) disclose a

method for isothermal amplification to identify multiple subtypes of HIV-1 using NASBA amplification and molecular beacons.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephanie K. Mummert whose telephone number is 571-272-8503. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 571-272-0872. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Stephanie K. Mummert

Stephanie K Mummert
Examiner
Art Unit 1637

SKM

JEFFREY FREDMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
12/9/05